

- Teen pregnancy – there was an increase of 16.7% in the number of pregnancies for teens age 10-14 during 1983-1994 (typically between 1-2 pregnancies per year). Ages 15-17 and 18-19 showed overall decreases, although there were approximately 42 – 51 in number per year for ages 15-17, and between 117 and 138 per year in number for ages 18-19. There was an increase in low birthweight babies born to teens age 15-17 of 59.8%. As previously stated, there was an overall increase of 412.5% in **very low** birthweight babies born to teens age 15-17. In the 1996 “Behavior Risk Factor Survey”, approximately 68% of respondents saw teen pregnancy as “somewhat of a problem” or a “definite problem”. There is no national objective for teen pregnancy, but Sumner County’s births to adolescents aged 10-17 (5.8% of total births) was lower than the state percentage of 6.5.

#3 Cancer

- During 1993 there were 340 cases of cancer in the county. The leading causes were lung (with a rate of 46.8 per 100,000 or 56 cases) and breast (with a rate of 97.4 per 100,000 or 56 cases). These rates were significantly lower than the state’s incidence rates (75.1 for lung cancer and 87.5 for breast cancer). The county is higher than the national objective of 20.6 **deaths** per 100,000 for breast cancer with a rate of 23.6. This is also higher than the Tennessee rate of 22.4. These figures are from the 1996 “Healthy People 2000” report. The 1997 report gives information on deaths from lung cancer. Rates for the county were 37.1, which is below the national objective of 42 per 100,000 and the state rate of 46.8. Despite small overall decreases, cancer remains one of the leading causes of death for ages 25+. It was seen as a problem by 66% of the respondents to the “1996 Behavior Risk Factor” Survey.

#4 Accidents

- Although there have been overall decreases for accidents, they remain the number one cause of death for ages 1-44 (*Note – the statistics viewed for leading causes of death do not separate motor vehicle from other accidents). There is no national objective for accidents.
- During the 1994-1996 period, the rate of motor vehicle accidental deaths was 20.5 per 100,000 population. Over the past twelve years there have been increases in ages 45+. Ages 45-64 showed an overall 33.1% increase and ages 65+ showed a 51.3% increase. The rate of 20.5 is higher than the national objective of 16.8, but is below the state rate of 24.3. As stated above, the Department of Safety reported 29 traffic fatalities in 1995, of which 41.4% (or 12) were alcohol related.